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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1958

VOLUME 76

CONTENTS

NUMBER 7

PAGE

COTTON

Egypt's Falling Cotton Futures Bring New Ministry Ruling	29
Argentine Cotton Board Sets Official Prices for 1957-58 Crop	29
U. S. Cotton Exports Up in December	30
U. S. Cotton Imports Up in November	30
Transshipments of Mexican Cotton Decline in November	31

DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Prices on London Butter Market Decline	19
Norway Reports Higher Milk Production	20
Switzerland's 1957 Trade in Cheese Varies Little From 1956	20

FATS, OILSEEDS, AND OILS

Antarctic Sperm Oil Output Higher in 1957-58 Season	6
Canada's Margarine Output Up in 1957, Shortening Output Down	26
Yugoslavia Continues Export Controls on Fats and Oils	28
Argentina Increases Area Sown to Sunflower Seed and Peanuts	28

FOREIGN TRADE DEVELOPMENTS

Japan's Imports Up One-Third in 1957	6
--	---

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS

Destinations Announced for Iranian Almond Exports	5
Large 1957 Spanish Filbert Harvest Moves Well in Export Market	22
1957 Italian Almond Harvest Second Largest	23
Turkey To Export Fewer Dried Figs	24
Fire Destroys Fruit Precooling Facilities at Cape Town	25
Cuba May Insist on U. S. Bean Inspections at Ports of Exit	26

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, FEEDS, AND SEEDS

Ireland Adopts New Wheat Price-Support System for 1958-59 Season	8
Ireland's Malting Barley Growers Negotiate New Price Agreement for 1958 Crop	9

(Continued on following page)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

CONTENTS

(Continued from cover page)

Page

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, FEEDS, AND SEEDS (Cont.)

Belgian Congo Gets Most of Its Hops From Europe.....	9
Costa Rica Will Import Rice.....	11
Philippine Rice Prices Increase.....	11
Canadian Wheat Export Prospects Decline.....	12
Argentine Grain Exports Down 6 Percent.....	12
Surinam's Rice Output Reduced by Drought.....	14
Canadian July-January 1957-58 Wheat Exports 4 Percent Lower Than Last Year.	14
Spain Reports Favorable Grain Prospects.....	16
Portugal's 1958 Wheat Outlook Bright.....	16
Iraq Subsidizes Barley Exports.....	21
Australian Subterranean Clover Seed Production Down.....	25

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT PRODUCTS

Drought Affects Cattle Industry in Northern Mexico.....	16
Canada Introduces New Beef Grade.....	17
U. S. Share of U. K. Lard Market Drops.....	17
Jamaica Prohibits Imports of Smoked Hams From U. S.....	18
Canadian Cattle Numbers Drop.....	18

SUGAR AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS

Brazil Sets 1958 Sugar Production Quotas.....	20
Sao Paulo Harvests First Commercial Cacao Crop.....	21
Rains Reduce Mexican Cacao Crop.....	21
Latin American Honey Situation Reported.....	27

TOBACCO

Rhodesias-Nyasaland Tobacco Prices Vary Widely.....	3
Korea Offers To Export Tobacco.....	4
Angola's Tobacco Exports at Record High.....	4
Tobacco Included in Renewed Greek-German Trade Agreement.....	4
Renewed Austrian-Greek Trade Agreement Includes Tobacco.....	4
Brazil Expects Larger Tobacco Crop in 1957-58.....	5

RHODESIAS-NYASALAND TOBACCO
PRICES VARY WIDELY

Average prices of flue-cured tobacco exports from the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland during April-October 1957 showed a wide range to various markets.

The United Kingdom and Australia took the most exports and paid more (71 U.S. cents per pound each for unstemmed leaf). Stemmed tobacco for Britain, however, did not average as high in price as the leaf, considering weight lost in stemming. Stemmed leaf for Australia was considerably lower than the unstemmed tobacco taken.

Average prices of unstemmed leaf to different markets varied from the high of 71 U.S. cents to a low of 27 U.S. cents per pound for leaf shipped to Hong Kong and the Belgian Congo.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland,
exports of flue-cured tobacco, by country of destination, quantity
and average export price, April-October 1957 1/

Country of destination	Flue-cured <u>2/</u>			
	Unstemmed		Stemmed	
	Quantity	Av. export price <u>3/</u>	Quantity	Av. export price <u>3/</u>
	1,000 pounds	U.S. cents per pound	1,000 pounds	U.S. cents per pound
United Kingdom.....	35,050	71	26,469	74
Australia.....	7,242	71	651	49
Union of South Africa...	2,980	42	---	--
Hong Kong.....	880	27	11	38
Netherlands.....	3,078	33	411	35
Germany, West.....	4,204	47	---	--
Belgium.....	2,103	36	1,399	38
Denmark.....	386	51	91	58
Norway.....	191	41	---	--
Portugal.....	36	39	88	60
France.....	110	56	---	--
Austria.....	430	31	126	33
Sweden.....	---	--	490	63
Belgian Congo.....	1,222	27	258	23
French Africa.....	275	31	44	38
Others.....	2,068	44	760	42
Total.....	60,255	62	30,798	70

1/ These months cover the major portion of exports from the 1957 harvest.

2/ Does not include minor quantities of flue-cured scrap. 3/ Converted at
£ = U.S. \$2.80.

In comparison with the average price of 62 U.S. cents per pound for unstemmed leaf exported from the Federation, U.S. exports of unstemmed flue-cured during July-November 1957 averaged 74 U.S. cents. Exports of stemmed flue-cured from the Federation averaged 70 U.S. cents, compared with 90 cents for U.S. stemmed flue-cured exports during the same period.

KOREA OFFERS TO EXPORT TOBACCO

The Korean Bureau of Monopoly has announced it will soon offer 11.0 million pounds of surplus domestic leaf tobacco for export sale, with bidding on an international basis. There is no information regarding lots to be offered, quantity and grade, termination date of bid acceptance, and terms.

ANGOLA'S TOBACCO EXPORTS AT RECORD HIGH

Angola's tobacco exports during the 8-month January-August 1957 period exceeded shipments for any past full calendar year. They totaled 5.0 million pounds. Portugal and Mozambique took 165,000 and 247,000 pounds, respectively. Most of the remainder went to franc-zone areas in Africa.

TOBACCO INCLUDED IN RENEWED GREEK-GERMAN TRADE AGREEMENT

The Greek-West German Trade Agreement was extended on November 21, 1957, for one year, effective retroactively to October 1, 1957. It will continue effective until September 30, 1958.

The new agreement, identified as the Sixth Supplementary Agreement to the Agreement of February 12, 1951 includes Greek tobacco as a commodity exchangeable for German industrial goods. No commodity lists are provided, except for commodities subject to quantitative restrictions, for which specific quotas are established.

Trade in both directions will be within the liberalized import regulations now in effect in both countries.

Greek leaf tobacco exports to West Germany were 41.7 and 42.4 million pounds in 1955-56, and 1956-57, respectively.

RENEWED AUSTRIAN-GREEK TRADE AGREEMENT INCLUDES TOBACCO

Austria and Greece have extended their trade agreement of November 12, 1954. The agreement includes Greek leaf tobacco, exports of which totaled 6.6 million pounds in 1955-56 and 11.2 million in 1956-57.

BRAZIL EXPECTS LARGER TOBACCO CROP IN 1957-58

Brazil's 1957-58 tobacco crop is reportedly forecast at 344.2 million pounds, compared with 319.2 million pounds in 1956-57. Most of the increase is expected in flue-cured. Preliminary trade estimates indicate a slight increase in Burley, but drops in dark air-cured (cigarette leaf), cigar, twist, and other types.

The flue-cured crop is forecast at 120.7 million pounds, compared with 73.6 million in 1956-57. Burley is placed at 3.6 million pounds, one-half million more than a year earlier. Dark air-cured, cigar, and other types are expected to decline about 9 percent from 1956-57.

DESTINATIONS ANNOUNCED FOR IRANIAN ALMOND EXPORTS

India took nearly half of all Iran's almond exports in the 1955-56 marketing season (beginning August 23) and again in the first 8 months of the 1956-57 season. For the 2 periods, India's purchases were 45 and 48 percent, respectively, of total Iranian almond exports. West Germany ranked second as a market.

The 1957 Iranian almond crop, estimated at 7,700 short tons, shelled, is reported to be of average size and quality; 1956 production was only 5,000 tons. At the end of 1957, shelled almond prices in the Tehran wholesale market ranged between 31.4 and 35.1 cents per pound.

ALMONDS, SHELLED AND UNSHELLED: Iran, exports by destination, 1955-56 and first 8 months 1956-57, marketing year beginning August 23

Country of destination	Shelled		Unshelled	
	Aug.23, 1955- Aug.22, 1956	Aug.23, 1956- Apr.20, 1957	Aug.23, 1955- Aug.22, 1956	Aug.23, 1956- Apr.20, 1957
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
France.....	108	72	24	---
Germany, West.....	1,437	721	23	---
India.....	1,684	1,185	195	1,345
Oman.....	5	29	139	50
Pakistan.....	78	107	265	66
Sweden.....	102	---	---	---
United Kingdom.....	104	131	---	14
U.S.S.R.	---	375	---	---
Other countries.....	195	203	19	24
Total.....	3,713	2,823	665	1,499

ANTARCTIC SPERM OIL OUTPUT HIGHER IN 1957-58 SEASON

Antarctic production of sperm oil from the 1957-58 sperm whale catch up to the beginning of the regular whaling season (January 7, 1958) was about 43,500 short tons, an increase of 5,500 tons from the previous season. The International Association of Whaling Companies does not expect significant revisions in these figures although a few more sperm whales may be caught during the current season.

Norwegian whaling companies accounted for almost 40 percent of the total, producing 16,800 tons--one-fourth more than their 1956-57 output.

JAPAN'S IMPORTS UP ONE-THIRD IN 1957

Preliminary data on Japan's foreign trade for calendar year 1957 show that total imports rose to \$4,283 million, up \$1,054 million or 33 percent from 1956. Most of this increase (nearly \$800 million) resulted from much larger imports of petroleum, coal, iron ore, scrap iron, iron and steel products, and machinery. Total exports amounted to \$2,853 million, up 14 percent. Thus, the import balance was \$1,431 million--nearly double 1956.

Regarding the major agricultural commodities significant in trade with the United States, imports from all sources declined in 1957. Imports of tallow and soybeans increased \$13 million over 1956. Imports of corn (comparing January-October of each year) also increased \$13 million. Imports of sugar, wool, and hard and bast fibers were larger by \$82 million, but these are not important among Japan's agricultural imports from the United States.

On the other hand, imports of wheat, rice, barley, cotton, and hides and skins declined by more than \$100 million. The decline in foodgrain imports is largely explained by the sharp increase in domestic rice production. While the value of cotton imports declined by some \$32 million, the quantity actually increased nearly 3 percent.

Data are not yet available on foreign trade by country for the full calendar year. However, it is known that in Japan's trade with the United States during the first 10 months of 1957, total imports were 32 percent larger than during January-December 1956, while 10-month imports of major agricultural products were about 1 percent ahead of the full year's agricultural imports from the United States in 1956.

The ratio of agricultural imports (those items important in Japan's U. S. trade) to imports of all commodities has declined from 58 percent in 1950 to only 20 percent in 1957. This is a reflection of the rapid increase in Japan's requirements for raw materials to supply its expanding industries. It does not detract from Japan's capacity to buy farm products. On the contrary, expansion and modernization of industry will strengthen the Japanese economy and eventually enlarge the demand for farm products.

JAPAN: Selected agricultural imports and all other imports, 1950-57

Year	Total Imports	Selected agricultural imports ^{1/}	All other imports	Agricultural percent of total
	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Percent
1950	974	568	406	58.3
1951	1,995	927	1,068	46.5
1952	2,028	909	1,119	44.8
1953	2,410	913	1,497	37.9
1954	2,399	1,007	1,392	42.0
1955	2,471	933	1,538	37.8
1956	3,230	953	2,277	29.5
1957	4,283	864	3,419	20.2

^{1/} The selected items are: wheat, rice, barley, soybeans, cotton (including ginned cotton, cotton linters, waste of cotton yarn and threads, cotton mill waste, combed and carded cotton, and seed cotton), hides and skins, and tallow.

JAPAN: Agricultural imports, selected commodities, from all sources, average 1950-54, annual 1955-57

Commodity	Average 1950-54	1955	1956	1957
	1,000 metric tons	1,000 metric tons	1,000 metric tons	1,000 metric tons
Wheat	1,752	2,287	2,277	2,239
Rice	992	1,246	760	347
Barley	715	576	922	848
Soybeans	327	808	717	803
Cotton ^{1/} ^{2/}	1,033	1,090	1,496	1,538
Hides and skins	43	62	76	71
Tallow	61	117	106	124

^{1/} Quantity in million pounds.

^{2/} Includes ginned cotton, cotton linters, waste of cotton yarn and threads, cotton mill waste, combed and carded cotton, and seed cotton.

IRELAND ADOPTS NEW WHEAT PRICE-SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR 1958-59

A new, fixed price-support system for Ireland's 1958 wheat crop has been announced by the Irish Government.

The dealers' price to growers for standard-grade wheat will be the same as that for the 1957 crop, i.e., 73s. 6d. per barrel of 280 pounds (\$2.20 per bushel) when the crop is not over 300,000 long tons of dried millable wheat. If production exceeds that level, however, the price will be reduced. In Ireland, wheat growers must sell to licensed dealers only, and the latter must pay the fixed price.

The new system aims primarily to keep the country's wheat acreage within the area needed to produce 300,000 tons of millable wheat. The government considers this to be the maximum extent to which native wheat can be used to make bread of good quality. On the basis of yields in recent years, 330,000 acres will produce that quantity and also provide seed.

About 370,000 tons of wheat from the 1957 harvest were available for milling, the government estimates. All of it will be or has been sold to licensed dealers at the basic price (\$2.20 per bushel), plus or minus established premiums and deductions for quality variations and a bonus to farmers withholding deliveries until after December 1.

Surplus from the 1957 harvest will be sold for animal feed or for export through Grain Importers (Eire) Ltd. However, prices brought by wheat sold for animal feed or export are much less than the cost of the wheat. The difference between the cost of the surplus wheat in purchasers' stores and the prices realized from its sale for feed or export will be met this year by the Exchequer. Losses on such sales are expected to be £ 1.0 million (\$2.8 million). The 1957-crop wheat sold for feed will be stained and sold in minimum lots of 6 tons at £ 26 per ton (\$1.95 per bushel).

Wheat grown in 1958 which is surplus to home milling needs will also be sold for feed or export. The government has decided, however, that the growers themselves should bear the losses on such sales. The fixed guaranteed price scheme will therefore be altered so as to spread the loss fairly over all growers. If new-crop wheat available for milling appears likely to exceed the required 300,000 long tons, the government plans to adopt the following procedure, subject to passage of necessary legislation:

- (1) An estimate will be made, after discussions with growers, of how much the proceeds likely to be realized on sales of surplus wheat for animal feed or for export will fall short of the cost of the wheat in purchasers' stores;

- (2) The total deficiency, as thus calculated, will be divided by the total estimated intake of millable wheat, and this will determine the deduction per barrel to be made from the guaranteed fixed price;

- (3) The deduction will be made by purchasers when taking in the crop, and it will apply to all deliveries of millable wheat;

(4) Purchasers will pay the deducted amount into a fund to be managed by a committee representing growers and other interests concerned; this committee will also be responsible for arranging surplus wheat sales to the best advantage; and

(5) The fund so created will be used to finance surplus wheat disposal.

Ireland's Department of Agriculture estimates that if 1958 production of dried millable wheat equals the estimated 1957 total of 370,000 tons, the 1958 fixed price will drop about 6 shillings per barrel (18 cents per bushel) below the basic 1957 level. If production is more or less than in 1957, the deduction will be proportionately higher or lower. Ireland's policy is to hold down wheat production to 75 to 80 percent of domestic needs and promote feed grains and livestock instead. The obligatory flour-extraction rate for Irish wheat was recently reduced from 80 to 72 percent.

IRELAND'S MALTING BARLEY GROWERS NEGOTIATE NEW PRICE AGREEMENT FOR 1958 CROP

A new long-term agreement has been announced between growers of malting barley in Ireland and Arthur Guinness, Son & Co. (Dublin) Ltd., covering the growing of malting barley on contract.

Under the new agreement the basic price in Ireland will be based on the prevailing United Kingdom price, plus certain additions to be agreed on annually, to allow for the absence of subsidies in Ireland. It was also agreed that future increases or decreases in the basic price would not exceed 5 percent.

The 1958-crop minimum basic price will be 57s. 6d. per barrel of 224 pounds (\$1.72 per bushel) for contracted malting barley with a moisture content of 20 percent. This basic price will be subject to review on October 1, 1958, and a final price will then be set after taking into account the prevailing U.K. price. The final price will not be less than 57s. 6d. or more than 63s. 6d. per barrel of 20-percent moisture content (\$1.72 and \$1.90 per bushel, respectively). The 1958 minimum price of 57s. 6d. is 6 shillings below the 1957 basic price. The new price agreement mentions no premiums for dryness.

This agreement is not a government support program. Guinness, Son & Co. propose to contract for 760,000 barrels of malting barley of all grades in 1958. They use 80 to 90 percent of Ireland's malting barley. About 10 smaller brewers and distillers use malting barley, some of them controlled by Guinness. Some of these firms contract with their own suppliers, but price levels generally follow those negotiated with Guinness.

BELGIAN CONGO GETS BULK OF ITS HOPS FROM EUROPE

Most of the hops consumed in the Belgian Congo are imported from West Germany and Czechoslovakia, although Belgium and the United States supply small quantities from time to time. Local breweries prefer European hops. (Continued on following page)

No hops are grown in the Belgian Congo. Imports have trended upward in recent years as domestic production of beer has expanded. Imports in 1957-58 (September-August) are expected to reach a record total of 250 metric tons (551,000 pounds).

HOPS: Belgian Congo, supply and distribution, 1953-54 through 1957-58, years beginning September 1 and ending August 31

Item	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
Beginning stocks....	15	20	45	25	20
Imports.....	183	222	194	223	250
Production.....	---	---	---	---	---
Total Supply.....	198	242	239	248	270
Consumption.....	178	197	214	228	245
Exports.....	---	---	---	---	---
Ending stocks.....	20	45	25	20	25
Total Distribution	198	242	239	248	270

In the past 2 years, when total imports averaged 209 tons (460,000 pounds) annually, the U. S. share of the total was 22 tons (49,000 pounds), or about 10.6 percent. At this rate, imports of U. S. hops in the 1957-58 season would be about 58,000 pounds.

HOPS: Belgian Congo imports, 1955-56 and 1956-57, years beginning September and ending August 31

Season	West Germany	Czecho- slovakia	Belgium	United States	Total
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
1955-56.....	82	64	23	25	194
1956-57.....	98	72	34	19	223

Source: Bulletin Mensuel du Commerce Extérieur du Congo Belge et du Ruanda-Urundi.

COSTA RICA WILL
IMPORT RICE

The National Production Council of Costa Rica will import 8 million pounds of milled rice in March. Of that amount 5 million pounds of Blue Bonnet have been purchased from Mexico. An additional 2.6 million pounds of that variety will be purchased either in the United States or Mexico. Approximately 1 million pounds of Canilla rice will be obtained from Ecuador.

PHILIPPINE RICE
PRICES INCREASE

Philippine rice prices in January were around 40 percent above a year earlier. Wholesale prices for Macan No. 2 on January 16 were around \$10.46 per 100 pounds, compared with the average price of \$7.17 per 100 pounds for January 1957 (see Foreign Crops and Markets, August 26, 1957).

RICE: Philippine prices of milled rice, for specified periods,
January 1957 to January 16, 1958

Date <u>1/</u>	Wholesale		Retail	
	First class	Second class	First class	Second class
	Wagwag No. 1	Macan No. 2	Wagwag No. 1	Macan No. 2
	Dollars per	Dollars per	Cents per	Cents per
	<u>100 pounds</u>	<u>100 pounds</u>	<u>pound</u>	<u>pound</u>
1957:				
January.....	2/	7.17	11.5	8.3
April.....	2/	7.79	11.3	8.7
July.....	2/	8.76	2/	9.7
August.....	2/	9.06	2/	10.0
September.....	2/	9.78	2/	10.9
October 1.....	11.19-11.59	9.86- 9.66	12.4-12.9	10.9
October 16.....	11.67-12.07	10.38	13.4-13.9	11.4
November 1.....	11.27-11.47	10.26-10.34	12.9-14.4	11.4
November 16.....	10.86-11.07	8.45- 8.65	12.4	9.9-10.4
December 2.....	10.66-10.86	7.65- 7.85	14.4-14.9	9.9-10.4
December 13.....	10.26-10.45	8.25- 8.45	13.9-14.4	9.4- 9.9
1958:				
January 2.....	10.66-10.86	9.05- 9.25	14.4-14.9	9.9-10.4
January 16.....	11.47-11.67	10.26-10.46	14.9-15.9	10.9-11.4

1/ Average monthly price through September; daily prices from October through January. 2/ Not available.

Bureau of Commerce and NAMARCO, Philippine Republic.

CANADIAN WHEAT EXPORT PROSPECTS DECLINE

Canadian officials are not as optimistic today as they were a month ago when they expected wheat exports for the 1957-58 season (August-July) to exceed 300 million bushels. They now feel it will be difficult to attain this volume, largely because some promising inquiries of 6 to 8 weeks ago from importing countries have not materialized. Exports in 1956-57 totaled 263 million bushels, compared with 309 million in 1955-56.

Despite parliament's decision to increase the authorization for the Export Credits Insurance Act from \$100 to \$200 in order to extend short-term credit to foreign purchasers of wheat, a number of prospective buyers have not yet taken advantage of the opportunity--notably Spain and several Communist countries, including Poland. Canadian officials now believe that the total volume of sales under short-term credit will be much smaller than expected earlier.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs recently asked parliamentary approval for contributing \$1.5 million worth of wheat flour to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees who left the State of Israel in 1948 and 1949. This sum would represent about 20,000 tons of flour, or about 1 million bushels of Canadian wheat. The House of Commons indicated it would support the proposal.

ARGENTINE GRAIN EXPORTS DOWN 6 PERCENT

Argentina's bread and coarse grain exports during the 6-months period ending December 31, 1957, totaled 2,308,000 metric tons, compared with 2,456,000 tons in the same period a year ago--an overall reduction of 6 percent. A substantial increase in exports of wheat, rye, and oats was not sufficient to offset reduced exports of corn and barley.

Wheat and corn are traditionally the principal grains in Argentina's export trade. Over 1,209,000 tons of wheat were exported in the 6-month period of 1957, compared with 1,194,000 tons a year earlier. Shipments to West Germany and the United Kingdom were much larger, but those to Brazil and Italy dropped sharply.

Corn exports during the 6-month period were 506,000 tons, against 829,000 tons in 1956. There was a heavy decline in shipments to the United Kingdom, France, West Germany, and Japan; but corn exports to Italy were up substantially.

European markets took virtually all the rye, oats, and barley.

GRAIN: Argentine exports, July-December 1956 and 1957

Country of Destination	Wheat	Rye	Corn	Oats	Barley	Total
July-December 1956:	- Metric tons -					
United States.....	---	---	---	2,511:	---	2,511
Peru	51,918:	---	---	---	---	51,918
Chile	88,986:	---	---	---	---	88,986
Brazil	601,922:	---	---	2,182:	---	604,104
Paraguay	14,900:	---	---	---	---	14,900
Uruguay	---	---	---	---	5,657:	5,657
United Kingdom ...	42,840:	---	133,558:	7,005:	1,534:	184,987
Denmark	1,500:	5,750:	3,628:	100:	---	10,978
Netherlands	40,290:	25,513:	132,029:	14,833:	61,289:	274,009
Belgium-Luxembourg:	7,091:	9,052:	126,834:	2,750:	800:	146,527
France	21,119:	---	125,253:	14:	---	146,386
Germany, West	58,986:	9,345:	136,101:	35,895:	166,401:	406,728
Austria	---	---	5,500:	388:	---	5,888
Czechoslovakia ...	---	---	---	---	2,000:	2,000
Switzerland	5,638:	4,516:	19,146:	1,365:	2,945:	33,610
Finland	---	17,750:	6,200:	---	---	23,950
Italy	258,543:	18,817:	81,543:	33,400:	1,427:	393,730
Yugoslavia	---	---	---	---	378:	378
Japan	---	---	58,727:	---	---	58,727
Total	1,193,733:	90,748:	828,519:	100,493:	242,481:	2,455,974
July-December 1957:						
Peru	44,097:	---	4,000:	---	---	48,097
Chile	177,090:	---	75:	---	---	177,165
Brazil	391,287:	---	---	2,712:	---	393,999
Paraguay	28,300:	---	---	---	---	28,300
Sweden	300:	6,100:	100:	500:	---	7,000
Norway	---	3,675:	---	---	---	3,675
United Kingdom ...	151,678:	899:	2,283:	10,498:	1,030:	166,388
Denmark	10,792:	2,400:	2,200:	17,056:	---	32,448
Netherlands	41,388:	34,134:	120,741:	37,157:	26,072:	259,492
Belgium-Luxembourg:	49,398:	9,480:	134,271:	12,211:	13,446:	218,806
France	12,300:	---	4,085:	510:	1,490:	18,385
Germany, West	200,395:	42,071:	50,705:	47,402:	143,494:	484,067
Austria	550:	2,000:	1,910:	---	930:	5,390
Switzerland	13,000:	2,000:	10,075:	24,713:	1,621:	51,409
Finland	---	21,515:	---	800:	---	22,315
Spain	4,800:	---	---	---	---	4,800
Italy	57,014:	31,242:	170,300:	49,700:	34,693:	342,949
Yugoslavia	1,000:	---	---	2,990:	6,395:	10,385
Japan	---	---	5,707:	---	---	5,707
North Africa	9,385:	---	---	---	---	9,385
South Africa	16,660:	---	---	---	1,250:	17,910
Total	1,209,434:	155,516:	506,452:	206,249:	230,421:	2,308,072

SURINAM'S RICE OUTPUT REDUCED BY DROUGHT

Surinam's 1957 rice production is estimated at 121 million pounds of rough rice (80 million pounds milled), compared with the record crop of 157 million pounds (100 million pounds) in 1956. The 23-percent decline is due to severe drought (see Foreign Crops and Markets, September 23, 1957). This is part of a general drought that seriously curtailed British Guiana's rice crop. The harvest of both crops was in September and October.

Had rice acreage not increased sharply, production would have been even less. The 70,000 acres planted in 1957 were 8,000 more than in 1956.

The increase in acreage occurred mainly in the mechanized rice area of the Wageningen Project, Nickerie District. The acreage of the entire Nickerie District was 18,800 acres, compared with 11,600 acres in 1956. This district includes the Prins Bernhard Polder and the van Dijk Concession. Plantings of individual farmers in Surinam increased only slightly from 49,900 acres to 51,100 acres.

The 1957 rice crop of the Wageningen Project was 35 million pounds of rough rice (23 million pounds milled), an increase of 11 million pounds (7 million pounds) over 1956. Given favorable crop conditions in Surinam, the gain in acreage already achieved should bring a significant gain in future rice production.

CANADIAN JULY-JANUARY 1957-58 WHEAT EXPORTS 4 PER CENT LOWER THAN LAST YEAR

Canadian wheat and flour exports during the first 7 months (July-January) of 1957-58 are tentatively estimated at approximately 162 million bushels, compared with 168 million during the same period in 1956-57. This represents a decline of 4 percent. The reduction is due mainly to smaller exports to Western Europe, which had a record crop this year.

Official export figures for December 1957 and January 1958 are not yet available. The estimated July-January total is based on official figures of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for July-November (see table on page 15), estimates of the Board of Grain Commissioners for December 1957 and January 1958 wheat exports, preliminary customs returns for December flour exports, and estimated exports of flour for January.

Following are preliminary estimates in million bushels (grain equivalent) of the quantities of Canadian wheat and flour exported to specified countries during July-December compared with those of a year earlier, shown in parentheses: United Kingdom, 51.0 (57.9); Japan, 22.0 (20.1); West Germany, 16.8 (25.8); Netherlands, 11.1 (7.7); Belgium-Luxembourg, 7.5 (8.8); United States, 5.5 (4.0); India, 3.8 (insignificant); U.S.S.R., 3.8 (4.1); Poland, 3.3 (2.6); the Philippine Republic, 3.0 (3.0); Norway, 1.4 (3.4); France 1.3 (1.5); Switzerland, 1.1 (5.3), and Czechoslovakia, 0 (4.4).

**WHEAT AND FLOUR: Canadian exports by country of destination,
July-November 1956 and July-November 1957**

Destination	July-November 1956			July-November 1957		
	Wheat	Flour	Total	Wheat	Flour	Total
	(Thousand bushels, grain equivalent)					
Western Hemisphere:						
United States	1,623	613	2,236	4,230	626	4,856
Central America	48	610	658	76	469	545
British West Indies ...	9	2,211	2,220	8	1,861	1,869
Cuba	1	179	180	1	135	136
Venezuela	35	1,385	1,420	37	1,036	1,073
Ecuador	219	-	219	370	-	370
Peru	2,135	10	2,145	411	5	416
Others	-	737	737	-	663	663
Total	4,070	5,745	9,815	5,133	4,795	9,928
Europe:						
Norway	2,909	-	2,909	1,139	-	1,139
United Kingdom	42,300	5,430	47,730	39,085	5,224	44,309
Ireland	1,404	-	1,404	653	1	654
Netherlands	7,265	4	7,269	9,999	1/	9,999
Belgium-Luxembourg	7,759	219	7,978	6,300	127	6,427
France	1,471	-	1,471	1,325	-	1,325
Germany, West	21,626	-	21,626	15,012	-	15,012
Czechoslovakia	4,371	-	4,371	-	-	-
Switzerland	4,943	-	4,943	1,066	1/	1,066
Poland	2,599	-	2,599	3,286	-	3,286
U.S.S.R.	4,127	-	4,127	1,745	-	1,745
Others	3,612	117	3,729	1,728	58	1,786
Total	104,386	5,770	110,156	81,338	5,410	86,748
Asia:						
Philippine Republic ...	-	2,649	2,649	-	2,533	2,533
Japan	17,522	433	17,955	18,365	356	18,721
Others	1,780	911	2,691	1,541	638	2,179
Total	19,302	3,993	23,295	19,906	3,527	23,433
Africa	1,187	842	2,029	315	471	786
Oceania	-	28	28	-	18	18
World total	128,945	16,378	145,323	106,692	14,221	120,913

1/ Less than 500 bushels.

SPAIN REPORTS FAVORABLE
GRAIN PROSPECTS

Spain's acreage of small grains is expected to be about the same in 1958 as it was last year. Fall-seeded grain is growing well in almost all areas south of Madrid, where rainfall has been adequate.

Recent rains have improved prospects in areas north of Madrid and a normal crop is now also expected there. Previously, dry conditions had indicated that a below-average crop might be harvested north of Madrid.

PORTUGAL'S 1958 WHEAT
OUTLOOK BRIGHT

The outlook is excellent for Portugal's wheat crop, according to recent reports. Despite a shortage of soil moisture at seeding time, germination and development of the crop have been good, especially in early-sown areas. Acreage in wheat is about the same as the 2.0 million acres sown last season. A record crop was harvested in 1957 from that acreage.

Officials of Portugal's Wheat Federation point out that the excellent prospects now reported may not be significant, since it is much too early in the season for firm indications. April and May are considered the critical months in that country, and loss from rust near harvest time is also an unpredictable hazard.

DROUGHT AFFECTS CATTLE INDUSTRY
IN NORTHERN MEXICO

The cattle industry in Northern Mexico is still feeling the affects of the 1957 drought, the worst in 30 years in some areas.

In Durango, one of the important cattle-raising States, cattle numbers dropped an estimated 30 percent during the year. A few large-scale ranchers shipped several thousand head of cattle to the United States. However, thousands of animals died from lack of feed and water. Prospects for pastures are not good because there was little rainfall during the normal rainy season extending from June through November.

The Mexican Government has granted funds for drilling stockwater wells to relieve the situation.

The State of Baja California continues to have a meat shortage. Because of the drought many ranchers in the interior have abandoned their holdings and are no longer attempting to raise cattle, even though cattle raising is practically their only source of livelihood. Hay is scarce and exorbitantly high-priced. As a drought-relief measure the National Agricultural Bank has authorized loans for cattle purchases. These loans will make it possible for ranchers having feed to buy cattle from other ranchers who are forced to sell because of the drought.

CANADA INTRODUCES NEW BEEF GRADE

Canada has adopted a new official beef grade, Standard. The new grade will include carcasses from steers and heifers formerly classified in the top part of the Commercial grade.

The beef carcass grades now in effect are: A (Choice), B (Good), Standard (Top Commercial), C1 (Common steers and heifers), C2 (Young cows), C3 (Overfat steers and heifers), D1 (Plain steers and heifers), D2 (Good cows), D3 (Common cows), M (Canners and cutters), and S (Bulls).

U. S. SHARE OF U. K. LARD MARKET DROPS

The United Kingdom imported 220 million pounds of lard from all sources during the first 11 months of 1957, compared with approximately 198 million for the same period in 1956.

Despite the 11-percent increase, the U. S. share of this market dropped from 75.8 percent in January-November 1956 to 63.0 percent in the corresponding period of 1957. Over this period, France increased its lard trade with the United Kingdom from .5 to 9.9 percent. Strong price competition from France and Belgium was the principal reason for the reduction in U. S. trade.

LARD: United Kingdom, imports, quantity, percent of total, and average price per pound, by country of origin, January-November 1956 and 1957

Country of origin	January-November 1956			January-November 1957		
	Quantity	Percent of total	Average price	Quantity	Percent of total	Average price
	1,000 pounds	Percent	U.S.cents per pound	1,000 pounds	Percent	U.S.cents per pound
Denmark.....	17,091	8.6	.1550	15,755	7.2	.1690
Netherlands....	12,580	6.3	.1458	13,294	6.1	.1553
Belgium.....	15,141	7.2	.1282	25,349	11.6	.1354
France.....	970	0.5	.1337	21,795	9.9	.1399
United States..	149,683	75.8	.1483	140,900	63.0	.1674
Argentina.....	2,332	1.2	.1234	4,028	1.8	.1501
Other.....	825	0.4	.1529	926	0.4	.1535
Total....	197,622	100.0		220,047	100.0	

Source: Secretary, U. S. Packers Provisions Agents' Committee, United Kingdom.

JAMAICA PROHIBITS IMPORTS OF SMOKED HAMS FROM U.S.

Jamaica has prohibited imports of smoked hams and other smoked pork products from the United States, according to a notice to importers issued on January 14 by the Jamaican Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. Imports of meat from Europe have also been limited because of outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in England and Wales. No reason was given for the ban on imports from the United States.

The January announcement by the Director of Veterinary Services of Jamaica stated:

"Owing to Foot and Mouth disease outbreaks in England and Wales, importation of carcasses (fresh, frozen, pickled or chilled) of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs from these countries and Europe has been suspended until further notice.

"Hams and other smoked pig carcasses from the United States of America are prohibited.

"Only cooked, sterilized meats, packed in hermetically sealed metal cans will be imported into Jamaica from unscheduled areas".

U. S. exports to Jamaica in January-November 1957 included 1.5 million pounds of pickled, salted, and cured pork, other than hams and bacon, compared with only 437,000 pounds during the year 1956. No exports of hams and bacon to Jamaica were recorded in 1956 or the first 11 months of 1957.

CANADIAN CATTLE NUMBERS DROP

Canadian cattle numbers on December 1, 1957, dropped about 1 percent below a year earlier, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This is the first reduction since 1950. Most of the decrease was in heifers and steers, due to large shipments to the United States and record slaughter in 1957. Dairy cow numbers continued to decline.

There was a slight increase in beef breeding cow numbers during 1957. Calf numbers also rose. Cattle production is profitable, especially for producers of feeder cattle. Large calf crops and continued large offerings of feeder cattle, especially in Western Canada, are expected this year.

Changes in Canadian cattle numbers will depend largely on the movement of cattle into the United States. If U. S. imports continue as large as in recent months, a moderate decline in numbers may be expected during 1958.

Sheep numbers rose during 1957, reversing the trend of the previous two years. Sheep and lamb prices are high in Canada, and some sheep are being imported from the United States.

Horse numbers continued their steady decline as mechanization of Canadian farms increased.

Hog numbers rose sharply after low numbers and production in 1957. Low prices for feed and high hog prices encouraged production during the second half of 1957. Hog numbers are expected to continue their rise throughout 1958 (see Foreign Crops and Markets, February 3, 1958).

CANADA 1/: Livestock on farms, December 1, 1953-1957

Year	Cattle		Sheep		Horses		Hogs	
	Number	Change	Number	Change	Number	Change	Number	Change
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1953	9,371	+5	1,161	+5	1,054	-7	4,721	-10
1954	9,473	+1	1,183	+2	951	-10	5,425	+15
1955	9,666	+2	1,181	0	871	-8	5,981	+10
1956 2/	10,379	+7	1,078	-9	746	-14	4,561	-24
1957	10,293	-1	1,112	+3	702	-6	5,160	+13

1/ 9 Provinces, excludes Newfoundland. Livestock numbers on farms in Newfoundland on June 1, 1957, were: 13,647 cattle, 79,466 sheep, 11,611 horses and 1,820 pigs. 2/ Revised.

Source: Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

PRICES ON LONDON BUTTER
MARKET DECLINE

Prices declined generally on the London butter market late in January. After the Danish price fell to 33.75 cents per pound, New Zealand butter dropped to 31.25 cents per pound, 1-1/2 cents lower than earlier in the month and the lowest since April 1957.

The present price for New Zealand butter is 12.25 cents per pound under the ex-store equivalent of the current New Zealand guaranteed producer price. Australian, Swedish, and Dutch butter prices also tumbled from former levels.

Little improvement in the present price situation is expected until current heavy supplies are reduced. Present British consumption is estimated at approximately 17.0 million pounds per week.

NORWAY REPORTS HIGHER MILK PRODUCTION

Norway's production of milk in 1957 will be about 3 percent above that of 1956, according to preliminary estimates. Output for the year is expected to be about 3.9 billion pounds. As a result, butter output in 1957 reached 45.9 million pounds, 18 percent more than a year earlier. Producers fixed lower cheese quotas in 1957, and production was reduced to 69.7 million pounds from 71.6 million pounds in 1956.

Butter exports, at 16.0 million pounds, were up 66.5 percent from 1956, while cheese exports, at 11.0 million pounds were up 25 percent.

SWITZERLAND'S 1957 TRADE IN CHEESE VARIES LITTLE FROM 1956

Switzerland exported 38.3 million pounds of hard cheese in 1957--approximately the same quantity as in 1956. Shipments in 1957 were higher to the principal markets, with the exception of France. The sharp decline there (from 11.9 million pounds to 9.4 million pounds) was due to the French Government's delays in issuing import licenses.

Exports of cheese to the United States in 1957 were 7.1 million pounds (7.0 million pounds last year); to Italy, 11.8 million pounds (11.0 million pounds); to Belgium, 3.7 million pounds (3.3 million pounds); to Germany, 3.8 million pounds (3.2 million pounds).

On the Swiss market, sales of all types of Swiss-produced cheese dropped 6 percent from 1956 to 33.1 million pounds in 1957, due to heavy competition from Italian and Dutch hard cheese and Italian and French soft cheese. Imported cheese is 30 to 40 percent cheaper on the Swiss market than domestic cheese.

Cheese stocks on December 31, 1957, amounted to 29.1 million pounds, compared with 24.3 million in December 1956 and 25.1 million in December 1955. The unusually high stocks at the close of 1957 resulted from the Swiss policy which favors cheese production and permits importation of low-priced butter. When milk is used for cheese-making returns are generally higher than when the milk is used for butter manufacture.

BRAZIL SETS 1958 SUGAR PRODUCTION QUOTAS

Brazil's Sugar and Alcohol Institute has set the 1958 sugar production quota for Sao Paulo at 1,036,000 short tons, raw value, and for the State of Pernambuco at 840,000 short tons, raw value. Sao Paulo has produced more sugar than Pernambuco for each of the past 4 years; however, this is the first year Sao Paulo's quota has been set higher than Pernambuco's.

SAO PAULO HARVESTS FIRST COMMERCIAL CACAO CROP

The State of Sao Paulo, Brazil, has reportedly produced its first commercial cacao crop. The 1957 crop, said to have amounted to 7.5 metric tons (16,500 pounds), was produced in the northern coastal region near Ubatuba. In this area there are about 300,000 cacao trees 1 to 6 years old. Some 150,000 cacao seedlings are also reported to have been distributed during 1957.

The regional experiment station near Ubatuba has been conducting research in cacao production for several years.

RAINS REDUCE MEXICAN CACAO CROP

Excessive rains in Mexico may have reduced the 1957-58 cacao crop by 5 million pounds. Moisture retained in the soil, however, should benefit the spring crop.

Cacao bean exports for September-December 1957 were about 3.7 million pounds. Exports in the first quarter of 1958 are expected to be negligible. Total exports for 1957-58 are forecast at about 9 million pounds; 1956-57 exports were over 12 million pounds.

IRAQ SUBSIDIZES BARLEY EXPORTS

Owing in part to a government export subsidy of 1 dinar per metric ton (\$.061 per bushel) paid to the traders, Iraq's exports of barley have been rising rapidly in recent months.

During the first 9 months of calendar 1957, only about 50,000 tons (2,083,400 bushels) were shipped. In October, however, 20,193 tons (841,400 bushels) were exported; in November 33,140 tons (1,380,900 bushels); and in December about 59,000 tons (2,458,400 bushels). Information as to January 1958 exports is not yet available.

The subsidy applies only to shipments in lots of 100 tons or more to ports other than Persian Gulf ports. It became effective July 29, 1957, but until September it had little effect on exports. It will, however, be discontinued at the end of February. The increase in barley exports is also attributable in part to the lowering of the ocean freight rates in the middle of 1957 to levels prevailing before the Suez difficulties.

Iraq's exports of barley in calendar year 1957 by countries of destination were:

<u>Destination</u>	<u>Bushels</u>
United Kingdom	2,363,684
West Germany	816,673
Belgium	1,342,470
Netherlands	1,719,399
Denmark	478,337
Persian Gulf areas (largely Saudi Arabia)	195,068
	<hr/> 6,915,631

LARGE 1957 SPANISH FILBERT HARVEST MOVES WELL IN EXPORT MARKET

Spanish filbert exporters have had a strong demand for their bumper 1957 filbert crop of 21,800 short tons, in-shell basis. As of December 10, 1957, exports from the 1957 harvest had exceeded the total volume shipped during the entire previous season.

The 1957 crop is 19 percent larger than the 1956 harvest and 58 percent above the 13,800-ton average for 1950-54. Rains at harvest are said to have inflicted from 3 to 5 percent damage.

Government-determined minimum export prices for shelled and unshelled filberts for 1958 and for the period March 28-December 31, 1957 follow:

Shelled filberts

Grano.....	38.6	cents	per	pound
Grano Primera Pequena	36.3	"	"	"
Broken grains.....	31.3	"	"	"

Unshelled filberts were priced at 16.8 cents per pound.

Switzerland and France are the two principal markets for Spanish filbert exports.

FILBERTS, SHELLED AND UNSHELLED: Spain, exports by destination,
Aug. 1, 1956-July 31, 1957, and Aug. 1-Dec. 31, 1957 1/

Country of destination	Aug. 1, '56-July 31, '57		Aug. 1, '57-Dec. 30, '57	
	Shelled	Unshelled	Shelled	Unshelled
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Australia.....	203	---	---	---
Austria.....	93	5	11	99
Benelux.....	63	68	47	10
Brazil.....	12	27	3	45
Chile.....	498	---	---	---
Egypt.....	2	---	165	---
Finland.....	382	116	---	---
France.....	624	166	1,003	270
Germany, West.....	110	---	105	55
Norway.....	12	166	45	58
Poland.....	---	---	110	110
Switzerland.....	1,248	214	2,549	---
Other countries.....	194	66	27	32
Total.....	3,441	828	4,065	679

1/ Estimated exports.

1957 ITALIAN ALMOND HARVEST SECOND LARGEST

Italy's 1957 shelled almond production of 47,000 short tons was the second largest on record--exceeded only by the 55,000-ton output of 1950. It was nearly 4 times as large as the record-small 13,000-ton crop of 1956 and 14 percent above the 1950-54 average of 41,300 tons.

Italy is the world's most important source of almonds, annually accounting for nearly half of all foreign commercial production and about 40 percent of world commercial volume. Production of almonds in the famed Puglia area is said to be trending downward as groves are being replaced by vineyards and truck gardens. On the other hand, bearing trees in Sicily are reportedly increasing.

ALMONDS, SHELLED: Italy, supply and distribution, 1956-57
and forecast 1957-58, year beginning September 1

Item	1956-57	Forecast 1957-58
	<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>
Beginning stocks.....	800	300
Production.....	13,000	47,000
Total.....	13,800	47,300
Exports.....	10,500	38,500
Domestic consumption.....	3,000	6,300
End stocks.....	300	2,500
Total.....	13,800	47,300

Almond prices have been relatively stable during the first 4 months of the 1957-58 marketing season. Wholesale prices in Bari have ranged between 36.3 and 39.9 cents per pound for Bari Primas. As of mid-January, unselected P & G's and Bari Primas were quoted at 39.9 cents per pound; Bari Bar sizes at 44 cents per pound; and P & G Bar sizes at 44.5 cents per pound. In the week ending February 1, the wholesale price for Bari Shelled almonds was 39.2 cents per pound, f.o.b. Southern Italy ports. Domestic sales and exports of the large 1957 crop are proceeding at a satisfactory rate.

West Germany was the largest purchaser of Italian shelled almonds during 1956-57, taking nearly one quarter of all export shipments. In the first 3 months of the 1957-58 marketing period, West Germany took more than 11,000 tons, or nearly half of all Italian exports. Unshelled almond exports during 1956-57 were approximately 3 percent of total almond exports, shelled basis.

TURKEY TO EXPORT FEWER DRIED FIGS

Exports of Turkish dried figs, including whole figs, fig paste, and industrial figs during 1957-58 are forecast at only 18,500 short tons, smallest export volume of recent years.

The 1957 Turkish fig pack is unofficially estimated at 33,000 short tons. Though slightly above average in size, the new pack is reportedly low in quality, with only two-thirds of the tonnage meeting the standards for edible figs. Loss in quality is attributed to cold, damp weather during the drying period.

Whole dried-fig prices opened in September 1957 substantially higher than in 1956. The spread widened as the season progressed. Grade A7 whole figs, for example, averaged 11.5 cents per pound in September 1957, compared with 7.4 cents per pound for corresponding 1956. By December 1957, the price had risen to 12.7 cents, 5.6 cents per pound more than the 7.1-cent price for the corresponding period in 1956. Though just below medium quality in the Turkish fig grade designations, Grade A7 was nearly sold out by December 1957. Overall fig prices for the 1957-58 season are not expected to reflect the 100-percent increases in prices for the better grades of figs, since the pack was heavily weighted by lower grades.

From September 1, 1957, to January 15, 1958, fig paste shipments to the United States were only 343 short tons, or about one-quarter the volume for the same period in 1956-57. Izmir packers maintain that the present U. S. market is unattractive for both Turkish whole figs and paste.

FIGS, DRIED: Turkish exports by country of destination, 1954-55, 1955-56, and 1956-57, Sept. 1, 1957-Jan. 15, 1958

Country of destination	Year beginning September 1			September 1, 1957 to January 15, 1958
	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
United States.....	130	271	226	43
Belgium and Luxembourg....	774	945	914	749
Denmark.....	987	895	1,038	819
France.....	402	1,440	1,495	89
Germany, West.....	1,436	1,618	2,142	1,924
Norway.....	1,594	274	595	493
Sweden.....	1,587	1,781	1,778	0
Switzerland.....	1,057	1,046	1,205	1,184
United Kingdom.....	1,810	2,008	1,985	1,809
Brazil.....	0	944	1,388	340
Other countries.....	3,363	2,199	3,103	3,440
Total.....	13,140	13,421	15,869	10,890

FIG PASTE: Turkish exports by country of destination, Marketing years
(beginning Sept. 1) 1954-55 and 1955-56; September-June
1956-57, and Sept. 1-Jan. 15, 1956-57 and 1957-58

Country of destination	1954-55	1955-56	Sept.1,1956- June 30, 1957	Sept.1, 1956- Jan.15, 1957	Sept.1, 1957- Jan.15, 1958
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
United States..	4,256	1,028	2,737	1,335	343
Canada.....	972	24	500	500	521
Ireland.....	281	---	---	---	55
United Kingdom:	909	397	985	233	210
Other countries:	1	---	104	7	0
Total.....	6,419	1,449	4,326	2,075	1,129

FIRE DESTROYS FRUIT PRECOOLING FACILITIES AT CAPE TOWN

On January 29 the fruit precooling sheds at Cape Town, South Africa, were almost destroyed by a \$3 to \$5-million fire. It will take at least 3 years to repair dock and storage facilities. The loss will seriously affect deciduous fruit exports, most of which go out from Cape Town.

South Africa expected to export 4 to 4½ million boxes of grapes this season, all through Cape Town. If exports cannot be made, South African grape growers face a \$25-million loss. Citrus exports will also be affected. New-crop exports will begin in April. About half of South Africa's citrus is precooled at Cape Town and exported from there. Of the 6.4 million boxes of citrus exported in 1955, 2.6 million were shipped through Cape Town.

Precooling facilities at Port Elizabeth, East London, and Durban were used to capacity even when the Cape Town sheds were available, and South Africa has few refrigerated rail cars for dock-side storage. Repairs are underway, and emergency facilities were expected to be available by February 15 to cool 5,000 cubic tons of fruit a week. This is relatively small compared to the original capacity.

AUSTRALIAN SUBTERRANEAN CLOVER SEED PRODUCTION DOWN

Production of subterranean clover seed in the Southern District of New South Wales, Australia, will be about 1.6 million pounds in 1957-58, compared with 4.1 million pounds in the previous year. In 1956-57, New South Wales produced 4.5 million pounds, and Australia 9.8 million pounds. Dry weather was the main factor restricting production not only in New South Wales but also in other States.

CUBA MAY INSIST ON U. S. BEAN INSPECTIONS AT PORTS OF EXIT

Following complaints of Cuban importers regarding reported low quality of a few imports of U. S. beans, the Cuban Board of Trade is considering insisting upon U. S. inspections at ports of departure, and identification of the certificate with the cargo. The board also is considering making such inspection and identification a stipulation in bean letters of credit.

CANADA'S MARGARINE OUTPUT UP IN 1957, SHORTENING OUTPUT DOWN

Canada produced 130.6 million pounds of margarine in 1957, and 152.0 million pounds of shortening, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The margarine output was almost 5 percent greater than the 124.7 million pounds produced in 1956, but the shortening output was over 3 percent below the 157.2 million pounds produced in the previous year.

OILS AND FATS: Canada, consumption in margarine and shortening,
1956 and 1957

Commodity	Margarine		Shortening	
	1956	1957	1956	1957
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
Vegetable oils:				
Coconut.....	12,931	17,116	5,812	4,048
Cottonseed.....	9,388	7,707	13,980	11,026
Palm and palm kernel.....	14,407	16,002	13,955	13,565
Soybean.....	42,335	44,055	45,581	41,378
Other vegetable oils.....	508	84	1,147	1,456
Total.....	79,569	84,964	80,475	71,473
Marine oils.....	16,835	17,070	21,298	26,377
Animal fats.....	4,466	3,845	58,391	55,567
Grand total.....	100,870	105,879	160,164	153,417

Source: Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Crushings of soybeans in Canada were slightly greater in 1957 than in 1956--13.3 million bushels and 12.9 million bushels, respectively. In 1957 the output of soybean oil was 140.4 million pounds, and production of soybean meal was 319,852 short tons.

Canadian flaxseed crushings totaled 3.7 million bushels in 1957, compared with 3.6 million bushels the previous year. Linseed oil production in 1957 was 74.2 million pounds, and linseed meal output was 62,546 tons.

LATIN AMERICAN HONEY
SITUATION REPORTED

Argentine honey production in the 1957-58 season is estimated by trade sources at 33.1 million pounds. This is the same as the record 1954-55 output and about 11.0 million more than last season.

Guatemala produced about 152,000 pounds more honey in 1957-58 than in 1956-57. Cuba is expected to have about the same quantity as last year, while the forecast for Mexico is 6.6 million pounds smaller. Cold weather and lack of sun during December and January in the main honey-producing districts of Yucutan and Morelos account for the expected decline in Mexico's production.

A large export surplus is indicated for Argentina and, to a lesser extent, for Guatemala. Mexico's exports are expected to be about the same as last year's, while Cuba's will be smaller.

HONEY: Indicated production, local consumption, exports, and prices, specified Latin American countries, 1957-58
(harvesting season begins in fall of year)

Country	Production	Probable consumption	Available for export	Port	Type	Price, f.o.b. December 1957
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.			Cents per lb.
Argentina	33.1	11.0	1/30.9	Buenos Aires	--	8.65-8.77
Guatemala	5.1	0.5	4.6	Barrios	--	10.8
Cuba.....	8.8	0.6	8.2	Havana	(White Extra light	10.66-10.89
				Santiago	(amber	10.21
				de Cuba	(Light amber	9.75
					(Amber (dark)	9.30-10.89
Mexico....	28.6	6.6	22.0	Progreso	Light	2/ 11.38
					(Dark low grade	2/ 10.69
				Tampico	(Medium dark	
					(Guadalajara	
					(high grade	2/ 12.06

1/ Includes 8.8 million pounds carryover from last season.

2/ January 1958.

YUGOSLAVIA CONTINUES EXPORT CONTROLS ON FATS AND OILS

Yugoslavia will continue to control exports of fats, oils, and oil-bearing materials. This is in accord with a new export control list issued by the Yugoslav Committee for Foreign Trade and published in the Official Gazette on December 28, 1957.

The revised list is divided into 3 categories: (1) commodities prohibited from export, (2) commodities to be exported under a quota, and (3) commodities to be exported without quota restrictions.

Fats, oils, and oil-bearing materials in the prohibited-exports category are: butter, butter oil, lard, leaf fat, tallow, soybeans, sunflower seed, rapeseed for crushing. In exceptional cases, the Committee for Foreign Trade is authorized to approve exports of these commodities.

Items to be exported under a quota system include oilseed cakes and meals.

Indigenous fats and oils are in short supply in Yugoslavia, and imports are necessary to meet consumption needs (see Foreign Crops and Markets, January 20, 1958). In 1957, Yugoslavia imported 20,000 short tons of edible oils, of which about 13,500 came from the United States under Public Law 480, and around 5,500 tons under purchases for dollars. Also, 28,200 tons of lard were imported, mostly from the United States under P. L. 480. Under the present P. L. 480 program, Yugoslavia will import about 33,000 short tons of edible oil, but no lard has been programmed for this year.

ARGENTINA INCREASES AREA SOWN TO SUNFLOWER SEED AND PEANUTS

The Argentine Ministry of Agriculture has released the first official estimate of areas sown to sunflower seed and peanuts for the 1957-58 crop year, according to the press. Sunflower seed acreage is estimated at 3,955,000 acres, one-third more than 1956-57 acreage of 2,968,000 acres. Peanut acreage is estimated at 595,000 acres, 6 percent larger than 1956-57 acreage of 558,000 acres.

The increase in area sown to sunflower seed was principally in the provinces of Buenos Aires and Cordoba. The 1957-58 acreage does not reach the record 4,448,000 acres sown in 1948-49, but is nearly 3 times the 1,408,000 acres sown in 1953-54.

The increase in area planted to peanuts was principally in the province of Cordoba. Total peanut acreage is the largest ever planted in Argentina.

EGYPT'S FALLING COTTON FUTURES BRING NEW MINISTRY RULING

In an effort to halt the downward trend in Egyptian cotton futures prices, the Ministry of Commerce instituted a new ruling, effective January 28, which narrowed the permitted daily futures movement to 1.5 tallaries per kantar (.9 cents per pound) either up or down from the previous day's closing prices.

Prior to the new ruling, maximum movement permitted per day was 3 tallaries per kantar. March futures for Karnak closed at 77.50 tallaries per kantar (44.85 cents per pound) on January 27, compared with 85.85 tallaries (49.68 cents per pound) on January 20. This was an average daily drop of 1.4 tallaries per kantar for the 6-day period; however Karnak fell the full 3 tallaries on January 22, and again on January 27.

The break in futures prices was attributed mainly to a slackening in foreign demand during the first 3 weeks of January, and to liquidations of speculative accounts which were not matched by sufficient buying interest. On January 28, the effective date of the new ruling, March futures increased the full 1.5 tallaries for both Karnak and Menoufli.

ARGENTINE COTTON BOARD SETS OFFICIAL PRICES FOR 1957-58 CROP

The Argentine Cotton Board has been authorized by the Board of Trade and Industry to purchase all lint cotton from the 1957-58 crop that is offered to it by producers, cooperatives, and ginneries.

Prices of the various grades, delivered to Buenos Aires, will be as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Pesos per metric ton</u>	<u>U. S. cents per pound</u>
A	14,900	37.55
B	13,850	34.90
C	12,800	32.26
D	12,100	30.49
E	10,500	26.46
F	9,500	23.94

It is understood that these are minimum prices and applicable only if the seller cannot get a better price for his cotton.

A bad outbreak of leaf caterpillars has affected the cotton crop in the provinces of Chaco, Corrientes, and Formosa. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the area affected covers more than 150,000 hectares (379,000 acres). Damage has not been estimated, but the situation is serious because of Argentina's limited cotton stocks. Harvesting is underway in Formosa.

U. S. COTTON EXPORTS
UP IN DECEMBER

United States exports of cotton in December 1957 amounted to 634,000 bales (500 pounds gross), up about 16 percent from exports of 548,000 bales in November. The current figure is 35 percent below exports of 975,000 bales in December 1956.

Exports during August-December 1957 were 2,432,000 bales (500 pounds gross), including 4,700 bales of American Egyptian, compared with 3,122,000 bales in the corresponding months of 1956. Quantities and destinations of U. S. cotton exports will be published in Foreign Crops and Markets next week.

U. S. COTTON IMPORTS
UP IN NOVEMBER

United States imports of cotton (for consumption) were 28,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in November 1957, up 75 percent from the 16,000 bales imported in October, and also substantially above imports of 2,000 bales in November 1956. Imports during August-November 1957 were 83,000 bales, almost 3 times the 29,000 bales imported in the comparable period a year earlier.

Most of this year's increase was in imports from Mexico. Imports from that country totaled 46,000 bales in August-November 1957, compared with 18,000 bales in the same period a year earlier. Of the 46,000 bales from Mexico, 18,000 bales were imported under the country quota for upland type (cotton under 1-1/8 inches), and 28,000 bales were imported under the global quota for long staple (cotton 1-1/8 inches or more).

The U. S. import quota for long-staple cotton for the current quota year, beginning August 1, 1957, has been filled. The Bureau of Customs has reported that the global quota of 45.7 million pounds (about 95,000 bales of 500 pounds gross) of cotton stapling 1-1/8 inches and longer was fully subscribed on December 30, 1957.

Cotton was imported from Mexico under the long-staple quota for the first time since the quotas were established in 1939. Mexican cotton stapling 1-1/8 inches and longer comprised 54 percent of total imports under the 1957-58 quota. Egyptian cotton, which previously comprised the bulk of the cotton entered under the long-staple quota, accounted for 31 percent.

COTTON: U. S. imports by country of origin, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1955 and 1956, and August-November 1956 and 1957

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of origin	Year beginning August 1					
	Average		1955	1956	August-November	
	1935-39	1945-49			1956	1957
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales
Brazil.....	3	1	1	2	2	1
China.....	1/ 31	2/	0	0	0	0
Egypt.....	63	103	60	36	2	25
India.....	3/ 67	3/ 103	6	4	1	2/
Mexico.....	23	19	22	22	18	46
Pakistan.....	3/	4/ 12	22	16	2/	5
Peru.....	1	23	23	8	6	6
Sudan.....	5/	1/ 4	2	2/	2/	2/
USSR.....	6/ 5	4/ 1	1	0	0	0
Other countries.....	0	0	2/	1	0	2/
Total 7/.....	8/ 185	8/260	137	89	29	83

1/ 4-year average. 2/ Less than 500 bales. 3/ Pakistan included with India prior to partition in 1947. 4/ 3-year average. 5/ Included with Egypt prior to 1942. 6/ 2-year average. 7/ Includes small quantities which are reexported each year. 8/ Total does not add due to partial averages.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

TRANSSHIPMENTS OF MEXICAN COTTON DECLINE IN NOVEMBER

Transshipments of Mexican cotton through U. S. ports in November 1957 were 102,000 bales (500 pounds gross), down 20 percent from October transshipments of 128,000 bales and slightly below the 103,000 bales transshipped in November of 1956. Transshipments for August-November 1957 were 364,000 bales, compared with 505,000 bales in the comparable 1956 period.

Principal destinations of transshipments during August-November 1957, with comparable 1956 figures in parentheses, were: West Germany 87,000 bales (101,000); United Kingdom 59,000 (53,000); Belgium 54,000 (41,000); Japan 50,000 (158,000); Netherlands 49,000 (30,000); Italy 17,000 (18,000); and Switzerland 17,000 (13,000).

These transshipments are in addition to direct exports from Mexico to foreign destinations, which amounted to 154,000 bales in November 1957, and 162,000 bales in November 1956. Direct exports for August-November 1957 were 669,000 bales, compared with 747,000 bales during August-November 1956.

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